

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net) Web page: [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)  
Church Office: 610-966-3601  
Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

April 26, 2026

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**"By the Gate"**

Prelude: "Come Unto Me"

Rasley

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 23)

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

**Many: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

**Many: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

**Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

**Invocation** (unison)

**God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your**

**kindom come. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

page 688

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

One: Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care.

**Many: We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. Life in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kindom of God manifested on earth. There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew. Amen

**\*Hymn: "God Will Make a Way"**

page 704

Scripture: John 11: 20-35

page 935

Message: Tom Dilts, our friend in Faith, "When Jesus Wept...."

**\*Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Community of faith, let us hold true to the ethos of the early church and hold "all things in common" (Acts 2:4). Let us share our abundance to enjoy shared life, to meet the needs among us, and to demonstrate our commitment to the kingdom of God.

Offertory: "Crown Him Lord of Lords"

Broughton

**\*Presentation of our Gifts and "We Give Thee but Thine Own"** page 667

**We give thee but thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving** (unison)

**Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

**Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

**\*Hymn: "He Leadeth Me"**

page 690

**\*Benediction**

Beloved, as you go, note the encouragement of the Shepherd:  
The Gate is open and with you.  
In your coming and going,  
The Shepherd leads you.  
Go, have life and have it abundantly.

**\*Extinguishing of the Candles**

**\*Postlude: "See How Great a Flame Aspires"**

Scriveyner

~~~~~  
*By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS** are given by Linda Benner in memory of Anna & Joseph Benner.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Lee Hoch.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Kathy Latshaw.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.  
Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.



Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.

**We welcome Tom Dilts as preacher in worship today. He will share from his heart about his thoughts on death and grief. He will give us all lots to think about.**

### **Penny Party – May 2, 2026**

**Doors open: 4:45pm in the Lower-level social hall. Plan on eating supper here.** There will be food available for purchase, including desserts. (Please bring donated baked goods to the church on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-4:30pm and on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30-10:30am.)

**Games Begin: 6pm.** Bring your pennies (and other change) for bidding on items of your choice. The more you bid the greater your chances of winning! Tickets for bidding are \$2 for a box of 200.

**Our Cub Scouts are selling Firehouse coffee!** Great gifts for Mother's and Father's Day!!! Orders are due Tuesday, **April 28**, to Larry Stahler. The delivery date will be around May 13. They would like payment up-front with your order. Please make checks payable to Cub Pack 31. There is a Firehouse Coffee shop in Bally. Through the Cubs you can also get a \$25 gift card for that place :). 12 oz. bags are \$15.95 each; K-cups \$13.95 /box.

You can get whole beans, ground or K-Cups for any of the following flavors:

|                                        |                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Breakfast Blend                        | Salted Caramel coffee |
| Columbian dark roast                   | French toast          |
| General Store - Brazilian medium roast | French vanilla        |
| Costa Rica - light roast               | Chocolate Raspberry   |

Details on flavors on paperwork at the sound system. **Thanks in advance for supporting our Cubs!!!**

**Sticky Bun Fundraiser** - Our Outlook Committee is selling Sticky Buns as a fundraiser for Church repairs. The Sticky Buns are made by Shady Mountain Market and are approximately 8" round yielding 7 individual pieces. The Sticky Buns are \$8.00 each. Order forms may be found on the table in the Narthex. **Orders are due by Sunday, May 10 and Pick-up date is Thursday, May 21 from 3pm to 5pm in the lower Social Hall of the Church.** Orders may be placed in the collection plate on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 610-966-3601 or by emailing the church at [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net).

**Confirmation Class Dates:** (Classes are on Sundays)

May 10: class at 9 a.m.

May 31: class from 12 - 2 after worship.  
June 21: class Noon to 2 p.m. after worship

**All Things Free (ATF) Sort & Store** will be held every Monday in April at 10am. Stop by to check it out. We can always use extra hands! Thanks in advance for serving the Lord. For further information, please contact Pastor Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522.

**Help is needed for our next ATF Giveaway** on Monday, May 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9 for set up. If you are able to help or have any questions, please contact Pastor Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

The next round of **GriefCare** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, June 3 and run until July 29. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

### **Supper Club – RSVP by Sunday 5/3/2026**

Wednesday May 6, 2026, 6:00 PM  
Hunan Springs – Asian Kitchen  
4939 Hamilton Blvd., Wescosville

### **Sunday Brunchers – RSVP by Wednesday 5/13/2026**

Sunday May 17, 2026, ~ 12 Noon  
Mercantile Club  
427 Railroad St., Emmaus  
CASH ONLY

### **Lunch Bunch – RSVP by Sunday 5/24/2026**

Friday May 29, 2026, 12 Noon  
The New Macungie Family Diner  
202 E. Main St., Macungie

### **May Soup and Sandwich Sale. Chicken Corn Soup with Home-made**

**noodles** along with Ham and Cheese Sandwiches will be offered to purchase in May by our Social and Aid Committee. Chicken corn soup with home-made noodles will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped off in the offering plate any Sunday during worship service; call or email the Church office at 610-966-3601, [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net); or call Annie Souder to place your order. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association. **Orders must be received by Sunday, May 10, 2026. Pick-up will be Thursday, May 21, 2026 in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00pm.**

**50 Days of Easter Food Challenge:** A People of the Table Mission Project for Keystone Conference's 1st Annual Meeting

**The Challenge:** Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between **Easter (04/05/2026)** and **Pentecost (05/24/2026)** and to report the quantities of their donations. Each church will report its totals (by category) via a web link, and the Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Using categories such as canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, pasta and rice, toiletries, and more will provide an easy-to-visualize picture of the breadth of donations. Having churches donate locally will allow you to serve the communities in which you live, work, and minister. We want to avoid hauling donations across the commonwealth to a single location when we know the need exists everywhere. We are also asking delegates to bring a one-pound bag of rice or beans to the Annual Meeting as a representation of their local donation. These items will be donated to the Lancaster Food Hub. **Old Zionsville UCC will be participating in this mission project.** But we already do, you say? Yes, we do. But now, the **confirmation class will count the items you bring in between Easter and Pentecost** so we can make a tally and participate in the Keystone Conference Challenge! Have fun. Bring as much as you can and all kinds of things count. We thank you in advance as we celebrate the joy of sharing. Questions? Ask Lori Esslinger - 610-393-3522.

**Items to bring for our 50 Day Challenge for the food pantry:**

- Canned fruit & veggies
- Canned pasta & soup
- Canned meat & fish
- Boxed side dishes
- Pasta & rice
- Pasta sauces
- Breakfast cereals
- Shelf-stable milk
- Baking supplies
- Beverages
- Nut butters & jams
- Condiments & spices
- Snacks
- Toiletries & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid
- Other

Join us for the **80th Annual Dillingersville Pilgrimage** on **Sunday, June 28, 2026**, for a memorable day of worship, history, and community! Experience an outdoor service under a large tent, surrounded by the beauty of nature at the historic 1841 stone schoolhouse, located at 7226 School House Lane in Zionsville. The combined Lutheran, Mennonite, and U.C.C. congregations will gather for a service at **10:30 a.m.**, followed by a picnic lunch and delicious homemade baked goods for sale. Stay for an exciting **12:30 p.m.** performance by **Simple Gifts**, two women plus twelve instruments that draw on an impressive variety of ethnic folk styles. This unique concert will be a highlight you won't want to miss!

**Calling All Bakers!!!** There will be a bake sale as part of the events at the **80th Annual Pilgrimage to the Dillingersville Schoolhouse**. If you love to bake, please consider donating one of your delicious desserts to support this beautiful and historical schoolhouse. Bring your dessert(s) to the schoolhouse with you prior to the 10:30am service on Sunday, June 28th. Please keep in mind that there is no refrigeration available, so you may want to consider not using icing on your dessert. **For more information or to get your donation to the church before June 28, please contact Lori Esslinger at 610-393-3522** (cell number). Thank you!

## **Week of April 27 through May 3:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday, 10am-3pm.  
(other times by appointment)

Church Hours: Tues. 11:30am-1:30pm, Wed & Thurs 10:00am-2pm  
(please call before coming to make sure secretary is in the office)

Monday: 10am ATF Sort & Store  
6pm Scouts

Tuesday: 7pm Cubs

Thursday: 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday: 1:30-4:30am Drop-off Baked Goods for Penny Party

Saturday: 9:30-10:30am Drop-off Baked Goods for Penny Party  
4:45pm Doors Open for Penny Party!

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

## **Next Sunday, May 3**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship, Communion

## **Total Offerings from April 19, 2026:**

General Offerings: \$2093.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$35.00

Heat/Electric: \$20.00

Attendance: 60

Ben/Missions: \$50.00

Bulletin: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Sunday School: \$7.00

**Old Zionsville UCC**  
P.O. Box 215, Old Zionsville, PA 18068

**May Soup and Sandwich Sale**

**Chicken Corn Soup with Home-made noodles** along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches** will be offered to purchase in May by our Social and Aid Committee. Chicken corn soup with home-made noodles will be sold by the quart for \$8.00 each and sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC. Order forms may be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday during worship service; call or email the Church office (610-966-3601), [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net); or Annie Souder at \_\_\_\_\_ to place your orders. Keep the bottom of this form for your records if you sell to others. Proceeds will be split between the Church and Cemetery Association.

**Orders must be received by Sunday, May 10, 2026.**

**Pick up will be Thursday, May 21, 2026, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of Ham & Cheese Sandwiches:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**at \$5.00 each: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Total # of Quarts of Chicken Corn soup:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**at \$8.00 each: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Owed: \$**\_\_\_\_\_



-----

Pick up Thursday, May 21, 2026, in our downstairs Social Hall between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

| Name | Phone | Soup | Sandwiches |
|------|-------|------|------------|
|      |       |      |            |
|      |       |      |            |
|      |       |      |            |
|      |       |      |            |